

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A method for reducing a surface gloss of a vehicle interior trim component, comprising:

moving an energy beam and the interior trim component relative to each other; and

treating a surface of the interior trim component with the energy beam during the relative motion of the energy beam and the interior trim component, the energy beam being effective for reducing the gloss of the surface.

[Claim 2] The method of claim 1 wherein treating the surface of the interior trim component with the energy beam further comprises:

exposing the surface to a flame plasma.

[Claim 3] The method of claim 1 wherein treating the surface of the interior trim component with the energy beam further comprises:

exposing the surface to a gas plasma.

[Claim 4] The method of claim 1 wherein treating the surface of the interior trim component with the energy beam further comprises:

exposing the surface to a spray of electrons from a corona treatment.

[Claim 5] The method of claim 1 wherein the interior trim component is stationary, and moving the energy beam and the interior trim component relative to each other further comprises:

scanning the energy beam back and forth relative to the surface.

[Claim 6] The method of claim 1 wherein moving the energy beam and the interior trim component relative to each other further comprises:

maintaining a substantially constant separation between a source of the energy beam and the surface during relative movement.

[Claim 7] The method of claim 1 wherein moving the energy beam and the interior trim component relative to each other further comprises:

maintaining a substantially angular orientation between a direction of the energy beam and a normal to the surface during relative movement.

[Claim 8] The method of claim 1 further comprising:

shaping the interior trim component into a final contoured shape before treating the surface.

[Claim 9] The method of claim 1 wherein the interior trim component is a non-contoured sheet for use as a non-carpeted vehicle floor covering.

[Claim 10] The method of claim 1 wherein the interior trim component is a contoured sheet for use as a non-carpeted vehicle floor covering.

[Claim 11] The method of claim 1 further comprising:

forming the interior trim component from a polymer.

[Claim 12] The method of claim 11 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic polyolefin.